GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3779
ANSWERED ON:08.04.2003
MANDATORY PRAYER IN SCHOOLS
C. KUPPUSAMI

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

:

(a) whether the Government are considering to make Prayer or meditation session Mandatory for the students in schoolsand colleges as reported in Hindustan Times dated 14.03.2003;

(b) if so, the details and facts thereof;

(c) whether any opposition to mandatory prayer has been received in the media, from the parents and from secular organisations;

(d) if so, whether any controversy in the name of Saraswathi Vandana had already been created two years back;

(e) if so, the details in this regard;

(f) whether the Government would reconsider recommending such controversial ideas to the school children; and

(g) if not, the reason therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR.VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA)

(a) to (g) : Government is aware of the news item in Hindustan Times dated 14.3.2003 regarding prayer or meditation session for students. However, there is no proposal to make either prayer or meditation session mandatory in schools and colleges.